



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, November 3, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

Domestic Programs

Aircraft and Equipment Operations - Aircraft and Equipment Operations provided one agricultural airplane and pilot to support the Imported Fire Ant research and development project in Durant and Idabel, Oklahoma, October 20 - October 23, 2003. One test plot at each location was aerially treated with a 50/50 mixture of Amdro Pro insecticide and Extinguish growth regulator fire ant bait at the rate of 1.38 pounds per acre. A third test plot that did not meet the projects application threshold for fire ant mounds was not treated. This project was in cooperation with USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, Gulfport, Mississippi, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the Bryan County Oklahoma State University Extension Center.

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Noxious Weed - Tropical spiderwort (Benghal dayflower) was found last year at the Cherry Research Farm near Goldsboro, North Carolina. North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has organized a Tropical Spiderwort Advisory Committee which includes Regional Program Manager Art Miller to provide direction and oversight for the eradication of this Federal Noxious Weed.

Al Tasker participated in the NAPPO meeting as a member of the Grains panel. Further discussion occurred of the weed risk assessments and grain movement pathway analysis being done by the Risk Assessment panel regarding weeds of concern to Mexico in grain. The second charge of the panel is regarding karnal bunt issues.

Canada is considering strengthening its weed regulatory program, and wishes to establish a discussion group with the U.S. regarding our program, and our Weed Program Action Plan for revisions to the U.S. program.

The Nez Perce Weed Biocontrol Center in ID has appointed a new manager (Paul Brusven), to replace Chris Kuykendall, who has moved on to another job. Paul has worked for the Tribe as an agricultural specialist. He has a degree in agricultural mechanization from U of Idaho.

Al Tasker and Polly Lehtonen met with Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce personnel on regulatory and program aspects of the *Caulerpa taxifolia* regulatory program. We are interested in obtaining additional cooperation from other federal agencies concerned about this pest.

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